

Minutes of the UniSA Student Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, 16 August 2022 – 6:00pm

Jeffery Smart Building JS6-13

(also via Zoom)

Present	Isaac Solomon Ayrton Hogan * Rohit Sahdev Simratdeep Singh * Gagan Kaur Trisha Banga Tim Pham Tanya Salvi * Rhys Peden Amy Djite * Michelle Emery * Hayate Yamada Kaveeta Magandram * Sam Bhattacharjee * Daniel Randell Bridget Laffy	President & Meeting Chair Post Graduate Representative International Student Representative City East Campus Representative Mawson Lakes Campus Representative Magill Campus Undergraduate Representative City East Undergraduate Representative City West Campus Representative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Representative UniSA Online Student Representative Magill Representative City West Undergraduate Representative (Elect) Finance Advisor Mawson Lakes Undergraduate Campus Representative USASA Chief Executive Officer Coordinator Governance and Student Leadership
Observers	Richard Irons * Brendan Hughes *	Director Student and Academic Services Director Student Engagement Unit
Apologies	Ashleigh Quilliam Arthur Siow	Whyalla Representative Legal Advisor
Minute Taker	Fulvia Lorenzon	Agency staff

* attendance via Zoom

The Chair declared the meeting open at 6:10 pm.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The USASA Board acknowledges that it meets on the land of the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains and on the lands of others who are attending from locations beyond this country. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land and acknowledge that these are of continuing importance to Aboriginal People living today.

The Chair extended this welcome to include all areas of Australia.

1.2 Leave Requests

There were no leave requests

IS informed the meeting that Ashleigh Quilliam advised her intention not to attend the meeting. Circumstances have changed for Ashleigh and she is no longer able to participate as a board member. As Ashleigh has missed 3 meetings, she is no longer eligible to be on the board with no possibility of re-election. IS thanked Ashleigh for her contribution to the Board and USASA.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

The issue of a possible conflict of interest was raised re the funding arrangements for IS, SB and GK to attend the NUS Ethnocultural Conference – however it was agreed that providing funds for representatives to attend the aforesaid event does not constitute a conflict of interest and has no relevance to the NUS membership.

1.4 Previous Meeting Minutes

1.4.1 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the Minutes of the USASA Board Meeting of 19 July 2022 be accepted as an accurate and true record of proceedings with the following amendment:

Agenda Item 3.4 Board Members Reports – R Peden

Update: amendment – insert “Indigenous Students Success Program” in lieu of “Indigenous Schools Program”.

Moved: Hayate Yamada **Seconded:** Sim Singh

All were in favour and the motion was **CARRIED**.

1.4.2 Action Log

Updates were provided as follows:

Cross Institutional Support for Action Against Wage Theft:

In progress.

Constitutional Review Working Group: Meeting to be rescheduled via Doodle Poll.

2023 Budget Approval Process: Completed.

NUS Education Conference

)

IS to report at

SENCON

)

September 2022

Universities Australia Conference

)

meeting

Election Timeline: BI reported on the plans made in consultation with

the Marketing team to promote the election - currently underway. Content will be launched on 22 July. RC and BL will be attending the University's two regional campuses in the next fortnight to market the election – Whyalla on the 24th and Mt Gambier on the 31st.

2. MATTERS FOR DECISION

2.1 Ethnocultural Conference - IS

2.2 Ethnocultural Conference – SB

2.3 Ethnocultural Conference - GK

The Board discussed the attendance by IS, SB and GK at the upcoming NUS Ethnocultural Conference in Sydney in September 2022 and the funding requirements for each delegate. NUS is the peak representative body for students in Australia.

SB is presenting a paper at the conference and his attendance will provide him with professional development and the opportunity to engage with students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. There may be a possibility for SB to provide a workshop on behalf of SA on issues such as wage theft action and other relevant matters.

GK added that it was important to find someone who is culturally and linguistically diverse as well as being an international citizen. A number of international students say there are issues and most times they struggle to find solutions, hence attending this type of conference allows for exchange of information and perspectives. GK noted that if she finds a good enough topic, she may consider giving a presentation as well.

IS said the workshops should focus on subjects pertinent to students and other external stakeholders. Currently being worked on. IS also noted that it might be appropriate to hold these presentations at the end of the Board meeting.

IS also reported on his discussions with the President of the Swinburne Student Association (SSU) as well as other student organisations re international student visa issues. Due to the nature of these international student visas, there is no SAFF payment therefore the \$2m in funding received, does not come from international students but we still elect to provide services. It all about getting clarity around these issues and getting ideas/perspectives from other student organisations. IS also expressed his interest in attending the Conference to provide support to SB and GK if required.

The Board was also advised that SB will provide an update on the Conference at the end of September.

The meeting continued to discuss the expenses involved for the three Board members to attend the Conference, viz. travel, accommodation and transport. It was highlighted that the NUS Conference has its own budget line. Board members also discussed other scheduled conferences, such as the International Indigenous Peoples Conference (does not require a budget).

The following motions were put forward with the suggestion that the Board authorises 'up to' the required sum:

Motion: The Board approves **up to \$600** for **Sam Bhattacharjee** to attend the Ethnocultural Conference in Sydney.

Moved: Ayrton Hogan

Seconded: Michelle Emery

All were in favour and the motion was **CARRIED**.

Motion: The Board approves **up to \$850** for **Gagan Kaur** to attend the Ethnocultural Conference in Sydney.

Moved: Rohit Sahdev

Seconded: Trisha Banga

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All were in favour and the motion was **CARRIED**.

Motion: The Board approves up to \$800 for Isaac Solomon to attend the Ethnocultural Conference in Sydney.

Moved: Rhys Peden

Seconded: Hayate Yamada

All were in favour and the motion was **CARRIED**.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

3.1 President's Report

Taken as read.

IS updated the meeting as follows:

- Meeting with Sen. Karen Grogan to discuss the Government's upcoming Jobs and Skills Summit. Consulted with various groups such as Women in STEM, ISASA and the Access Guild amongst others to obtain feedback for a document covering key issues. This document will be provided to the Senator in conjunction with a virtual conversation between IS, the Senator and the President of FUSA.

- Major changes to future teaching and learning arrangements – a paper was proposed by the Provost to indefinitely move lectures and exams online. This equates to 20% of contact hours with tutors and lecturers and course coordinators. That should be indefinite. Reported on discussion with Provost which covered clarification on Covid restrictions, an agreed extension to end 2023 to allow for student consultation. If lectures stay on line, the style would be similar to UO. Exams would be based on performance to ensure an accurate assessment. No changes will be permanently made without student consultation.

The pros and cons of using high quality educational material (e.g. videos, PP presentations) in lieu of lectures was also discussed. This option would need consultation with students. Overall, students with 20% of teaching contact hours, i.e. in lectures, would spend 80% at tutorials, seminars and practical assessments.

IS invited members to advise if they feel USASA should take a 'position' on this matter.

- Clubs Fest – Reaching out to Clubs to gain indication of what they are planning for the second half of the year.
- Strategic Planning Day – a second day to be scheduled.
- Constitution Review – requires a further meeting, however, much of the work has already been done.

3.1 CEO's Report

Taken as read.

DR highlighted the following:

- Advocacy July Report – significant rise in new cases (196 compared to 95 for previous reported period) mostly related to preclusions and academic complaints.

- Next round of Advocacy Interns program about to commence. If Board knows of anyone who would be interested in applying advise DR. Applications close end of the week.
- Launch of new website scheduled for 10 August 2022 did not occur. DR met with Uni IT and Security due to major data breaches in Australia. Looking at enhancing MSL. IT to request to sign off on integration. A new launch date to be set.

3.3 Finance Reports

Taken as read.

SB gave a brief overview of the Budget.

3.4 Board Members Reports

The following members submitted written reports:

Amy Djite	Taken as read
Ayrton Hogan	Taken as read
Gagan Kaur	Taken as read
Hayate Yamada	Taken as read
Michelle Emery	Taken as read
Sam Bhattacharjee	Taken as read
Sim Sing	Taken as read
Tanya Salvi	Taken as read
Tim Pham	Taken as read
Trisha Banga	Taken as read

GK advised the meeting she has elected not to continue on the DEA Committee.

The following members provided verbal updates:

Rohit Sahdev	Attended function on 14 July – had opportunity to meet with international students and discuss their difficulties in coming to Australia. Explained about UNISA and what it does; the students were very happy to have the information and likely to contact IS in the coming days.
Rhys Peden	National Reconciliation Week Steering Group – an initiative of the SEU has commenced. The Committee is looking at events throughout the week. UniSA to provide a budget line to fund events and have students involved directly in steering group. RP is one of four students and another 3 are being recruited. RP to attend 4-day WIPCE and will also be participating on the panel of the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education.

3.5 Committee Minutes

3.5.1 Finance Committee – 14 July

Taken as read.

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Briefly went through the draft proposal for the 2023 Budget which passed without any changes.

Michelle Emery left at 7:07pm.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 RP advised that TB has resigned from the Governance Committee due to study requirements.

4.2 DR updated on the West Bar venue: card readers have been fitted to doors and the space is being cleaned in preparation for public use. Consulting with Clubs on the financial aspect as well as in relation to gaining an understanding of how they envision the space would best be utilised. A small committee is being set up to discuss what this space will look like. Hopefully Board members will become involved.

4.3 Dead naming ban (viz using names previously used but not current name (e.g. transgender students)) – this matter has been discussed with the DEA Committee. This is a complicated issue in regard to how the systems all interact with one another; however it can be resolved notwithstanding the amount of work that is required. An open letter will be circulated supporting the ban to end dead naming at Universities throughout Australia. RI also commented on plans to review the University's systems so that student can put their preferred name on reports and communications. IS noted that this has relevance for the DEA Committee. Proposed further discussion with UTAS to gain further insights.

Richard Irons left at 7:13pm

5. MEETING CLOSURE

IS declared the meeting closed at 7:13 pm to be followed by an In Camera session.
5.1 The next USASA Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 13 September 2022 at 6:00pm in JS6-13 City West Campus. Zoom option is available for those who cannot attend in person.



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